

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted May 7-10, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.9\%$

1. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	14%	33%	23%	20%	11%
The economy	13%	24%	16%	41%	7%
Immigration	8%	21%	19%	37%	15%
The environment	14%	26%	22%	23%	15%
Terrorism	28%	27%	18%	19%	8%
Gay rights	11%	28%	14%	21%	26%
Education	16%	26%	20%	25%	13%
Health care	20%	19%	13%	41%	7%
Social security	15%	19%	21%	32%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	17%	42%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	34%	21%	22%	10%
Taxes	13%	22%	22%	35%	8%
Medicare	15%	20%	18%	33%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	43%	17%	6%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	46%	30%	18%	6%
The environment	46%	35%	12%	6%
Terrorism	56%	30%	10%	4%
Gay rights	23%	26%	24%	27%
Education	60%	29%	9%	3%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	2%
Social security	64%	27%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	28%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	43%	14%	5%
Taxes	65%	27%	6%	1%
Medicare	57%	29%	11%	3%

3. Which of these is the **most important issue for you?**

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	32%
Not Sure	6%

5. How would you describe yourself?

Very patriotic	50%
Somewhat patriotic	36%
Not very patriotic	10%
Not at all patriotic	4%

6. Do you think Americans are becoming more or less patriotic?

More patriotic	14%
About the same	53%
Less patriotic	33%

7. Which political party do you think is more patriotic?

Democratic party	17%
About the same	52%
Republican party	32%

8. In your opinion, has the United States recovered from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC?

Has recovered	26%
Has yet to recover	35%
Will never recover	23%
Not sure	16%

9. How much have you heard or read about the killing of Osama bin Laden?

A lot	71%
A little	27%
Nothing at all	1%

10. As you may know, President Obama announced that U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan on May 1st. Should the U.S. government release a picture of Osama bin Laden's body?

Yes	38%
No	44%
Not sure	18%

11. Would you have preferred that U.S. forces kill or capture Osama bin Laden?

Kill	52%
Capture	20%
Neither	2%
No preference	26%

12. Do you expect Al Qaeda to try to avenge Osama bin Laden's death?

Yes, in the next few days	5%
Yes, but not immediately	79%
No	3%
Not sure	13%

13. Following Osama bin Laden's death, how serious a threat do you think Al Qaeda poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	28%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	48%
A minor threat to the U.S.	15%
Not a threat to the U.S.	2%
Not sure	7%

14. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe	10%
Somewhat more safe	35%
About the same	28%
Somewhat less safe	10%
Much less safe	9%
Not sure	8%

15. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	28%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	43%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	14%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	4%
Not sure	11%

16. Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	43%
No effect	29%
Less safe	28%

17. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	32%
No effect	41%
Less safe	27%

18. Do you consider Pakistan to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

Ally of U.S.	3%
Friendly	8%
Unfriendly	41%
Enemy of the U.S.	17%
Not sure	31%

19. Do you think that people in Pakistan consider the United States to be a friend or an enemy of their country?

Ally	2%
Friendly	7%
Unfriendly	32%
Enemy	28%
Not sure	30%

20. How much can the United States count on Pakistan to help stop terrorism?

A lot	1%
Somewhat	30%
Not at all	47%
Not sure	22%

21. The U.S. has been holding suspected terrorists at a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Do you think the U.S. should continue to operate the prison or close it down?

Continue to operate	58%
Close down	24%
Not sure	18%

22. Do you favor or oppose using torture to obtain information from suspected terrorists?

Favor	36%
Oppose	38%
Not sure	26%

23. Regardless of whether you favor or oppose the use of torture, do you think that it is possible to obtain useful information from terrorist suspects by torturing them?

Yes	53%
No	25%
Not sure	22%

24. In recent months there have been anti-government protests or uprisings in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. How important are each of these countries to America's interests?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant	Not sure
Bahrain	21%	29%	15%	7%	29%
Egypt	40%	25%	6%	6%	23%
Libya	23%	30%	15%	8%	24%
Syria	23%	32%	11%	8%	25%
Tunisia	12%	28%	21%	9%	30%
Yemen	22%	31%	13%	8%	27%

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the unrest in the following countries?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Bahrain	8%	18%	15%	13%	45%
Egypt	13%	23%	15%	15%	34%
Libya	13%	20%	16%	20%	31%
Syria	9%	20%	16%	15%	40%
Tunisia	9%	18%	13%	13%	46%
Yemen	8%	18%	14%	14%	45%

26. About how many miles per gallon do you get with the car that you drive most frequently?

Less than 10 mpg	1%
10-14 mpg	6%
15-18 mpg	15%
19-22 mpg	22%
23-30 mpg	27%
31-40 mpg	9%
More than 40 mpg	1%
Don't know	6%
Do not drive a car	12%

27. In six months, do you think the price of gasoline will be higher or lower than it is today?

Higher	53%
About the same	19%
Lower	17%
Not sure	11%

28. How serious a problem is the increase in the price of gasoline in recent months for you and your family?

Very serious	47%
Somewhat serious	33%
No too serious	14%
Not at all serious	5%

29. Have you cut back on how much you drive because of the recent increase in the price of gasoline? Asked if respondent drives a car

Yes	68%
No	32%

30. Have you taken any of the following steps in response to the increase in gasoline prices in recent months? Please check all that apply. Asked if respondent drives a car

Increased use of public transportation	8%
Rode bike instead of driving	8%
Started carpooling to commute to work	6%
Changed summer vacation plans	26%
Started working from home all or some of the time	7%
Bought or seriously considered buying a more fuel-efficient car	15%
Cut back on other household spending in order to pay for gas	43%
Other	14%
None of these	31%

31. What do you think is a fair price for a gallon of gasoline?

\$2 or less	37%
Between \$2 and \$3	43%
Between \$3 and \$4	5%
Between \$4 and \$5	1%
Over \$5	1%
Whatever price the market determines	7%
Not sure	6%

32. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the recession?

Has already recovered	1%
Less than a year	4%
About a year	10%
Two years	18%
More than two years	67%

33. In the next few months, do you think you and your family will be more seriously hurt by unemployment or by inflation?

Unemployment	8%
Inflation	44%
Both equally	28%
Neither	9%
Not sure	11%

34. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for... Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Some other candidate	7%
Not sure	21%

35. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if you had the following choices...

Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	45%
Mike Huckabee	39%
Not sure	16%

36. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Donald Trump? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	51%
Donald Trump	33%
Not sure	16%

37. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Newt Gingrich? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	52%
Newt Gingrich	32%
Not sure	16%

38. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

39. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%

40. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Barack Obama as a person?

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	10%

41. Which of these words would you use to describe Barack Obama?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	35%	47%	18%
Decisive	28%	46%	25%
Effective	28%	41%	31%
Experienced	16%	41%	42%
Honest	33%	37%	30%
In touch	28%	41%	31%
Inspiring	33%	45%	23%
Intelligent	61%	26%	13%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Patriotic	32%	43%	25%
Realistic	30%	39%	31%
Religious	17%	54%	29%
Sincere	34%	38%	28%
Strong	32%	46%	22%
Unifying	16%	47%	37%

42. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	8%

43. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	24%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure	14%

44. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?

Getting better	21%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	6%

45. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	25%
About the same	36%
Lower	16%
Not sure	23%

46. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially	15%
About the same as now	40%
Worse off financially	42%
Not sure	3%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 7-10, 2011
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
Weighting	The sample was weighted using propensity scores based on age, gender, race, education, news interest, voter registration, and non-placement on an ideology scale. The weights range from 0.4 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.74.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	34 questions not reported.